



November 2009

Dear Counselor or Mentor:

The office of Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, would like to share some important updates to and information on our publications.

Highlights of Our Message

- The new *College Preparation Checklist* is for all students considering or planning for college. The checklist includes steps to get ready for college, as well as a brief introduction to federal student aid and the FAFSA process.
- *Funding Education Beyond High School* should be accessed online at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide if possible. Refer parents and students to this Web site if they want comprehensive detail about the federal student aid programs.
- This letter also includes a table showing a sampling of our publications for your quick reference; and a fact sheet titled "Your Guide to FSAPubs" provides information on how to order our **free** materials from FSAPubs and how to update your information in our database.

New Publication

The new *College Preparation Checklist* (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/collprep) is greatly expanded compared to the previous version. This small booklet explains how to prepare academically and financially for college through "to do" lists aimed at elementary and secondary school students and their parents, as well as adult students. Simply worded information about federal aid, what to do at FAFSA filing time, and looking for scholarships also is included. Readers are directed to publications and Web sites for more detailed discussions of the topics in the checklist. We recommend that you use the checklist as the foundational information and outreach publication for any students who are considering college.

Status of *Funding Education Beyond High School*

In response to audience feedback, we are printing fewer copies of this year's edition of *Funding Education Beyond High School* and instead recommend the *College Preparation Checklist* for brief information and instructions for what the student needs to do.

We recognize that some schools will want to continue to provide the comprehensive information of *Funding Education Beyond High School* to parents; keep in mind that the publication is available at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide, in both html and PDF. The *College Preparation Checklist* will also point the reader to the online sections of *Funding Education Beyond High School* that are relevant to his or her needs at that stage of the college preparation process.

If you simply want to provide students a high-level overview of federal aid, without including the "to do" list of the *College Preparation Checklist*, you might consider giving them *Federal Student Aid at a Glance*. This 4-page flyer can be ordered, or downloaded in PDF, in the "Publications" section of www.FSAPubs.org. The

830 First St. N.E., Washington, DC 20202
www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
1-800-4-FED-AID

flyer includes basic information on student eligibility, the application process, aid programs and annual maximum amounts, and reasons to complete the FAFSA. It also contains encouragement for younger students to use *FAFSA4caster*.

FAFSA Filing Options

We encourage students to apply for federal student aid using *FAFSA on the Web*. The online application is going to be significantly simpler in 2010-11, so we strongly urge all students to fill out the application at www.fafsa.ed.gov. We continue to make a PDF FAFSA available for your students who are unable to complete *FAFSA on the Web*. Applicants may print out the PDF from www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov (click on "FAFSA Filing Options") and submit it by postal mail. Students without access to the Internet may ask the financial aid office at their chosen college whether the school can submit the FAFSA on their behalf; or they may request a paper FAFSA from 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

College.gov

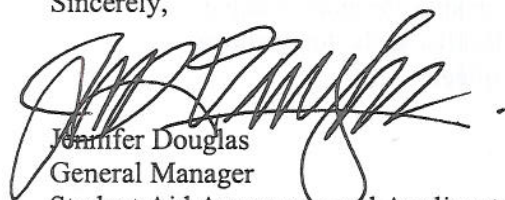
For your students who are unsure whether college is for them, we offer www.college.gov. This simply worded, engaging Web site provides information about applying to, attending, and graduating from college. It features first-person accounts of students who overcame challenges such as peer pressure, lack of family support, and financial barriers. Use the site to introduce the concept of college, and then send your students to our more detailed Web content at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov.

Ordering Publications

Please see the enclosed information on using www.FSAPubs.org to order free publications. Pay special attention to the request to review your account details. We can communicate with you much more effectively if we have your correct e-mail address.

Thank you and have a successful school year.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Douglas
General Manager
Student Aid Awareness and Applicant Services

Major Federal Student Aid Publications for Students, Parents, and Counselors and Mentors

Document Name	Summary and URL	Audience(s)								
		Pre-Middle School Parent	Middle School Student	Middle School Parent	High School Student (9-11)	High School Senior	High School Parent	College Student	Adult Student	Counselor/ Mentor
College Prep Checklist	How to get ready academically and financially (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/collprep)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
2010-11 Federal Student Aid at a Glance (4-pager)	Basic overview of aid and application process (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/pubs)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2010-11 Funding Education Beyond High School	Detailed info on federal aid programs (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Your Federal Student Loans	Basic federal loan and debt management info (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/repayingpub)				11th	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2010-11 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet	Preview some of the FAFSA questions (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/worksheet)					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Do You Need Money for College?	Tips for filling out the FAFSA (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/pubs)					✓	✓	✓	✓	
2010-11 Completing the FAFSA	Detailed instructions for every FAFSA question (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/completefafsa)					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bookmark	Quick reference for Federal Student Aid Web site and phone number (www.FSAPubs.org)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
My Future, My Way: How to Go, How to Pay	College and career awareness for middle school (www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/early)		✓		9th					
college.gov sticker	Introduces www.college.gov Web site (not available online)				✓	✓	✓			
college.gov brochure	Introduces www.college.gov Web site (not available online)						✓			✓
2010-11 Counselors and Mentors Handbook	Intro to federal aid; details re application process (www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov)									✓

Topic(s)								Date Available for Order	Estimated Shipping Date	Spanish	Braille
early awareness (pre-hs)	college prep	types of federal aid (general)	types of federal aid (detailed)	FAFSA/applying for aid	detailed loan info	consumer issues	scholarships				
✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	NOW	immediate	spring 2010	Jan 2010
		✓		✓				11/15/2009	late Dec 2009		Jan 2010
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	11/15/2009	Jan 2010	Mar 2010	Feb 2010
		✓		✓	✓	✓		NOW	immediate	2010	✓
				✓				NOW	mid-Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2010
				✓				NOW	immediate	✓	
								N/A	available online late Dec	Jan 2010	
	✓	✓		✓				NOW	immediate	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓					✓	NOW	immediate	in PDF	✓
✓	✓							NOW	immediate		
	✓							NOW	immediate		
		✓		✓		✓		11/15/2009	1 copy shipped automatically mid-Dec	in PDF Jan 2010	

Your Guide to FSAPubs

The Federal Student Aid Publications Ordering System (FSAPubs) is **your source for free bulk shipments of Federal Student Aid publications**. Visit FSAPubs today to update your account and place orders:

1. You can find the FSAPubs Web site at **www.FSAPubs.org**. At the site, you will be asked for your ML (mailing list) number, which appears on the mailing label of the envelope in which this letter arrived. If you don't know your ML number, call 1-800-394-7084 to find out what it is. If you do not have Internet access, you may call that same number to place orders for publications.
2. At the FSAPubs site, type your ML number into the box in the middle of the home page and click on the "LOGIN" button. If you have not visited the site in the past couple of years, you will see orange text on the screen asking you to validate your address. Follow the directions on the screen.
3. Even if you have visited the site regularly, we encourage you to click on the "Account Management" link on the left side of the page and choose "Add/Modify Shipping Information." On the next screen, click on "Edit" and modify any information that is incomplete or incorrect. You can do the same for your Institution Address. Please supply your e-mail address at the site so we can notify you of any new publications, training, or emergency information.
4. To order publications, click on "Publications" at the left side of the screen and browse the list or search for specific items. Enter the quantity you need and follow the directions to place your order. Remember, all of our materials are free.

In addition to the materials listed on FSAPubs.org, these free items are available by download or special request, as indicated:

- *We Have A Bright Future* poster—for those who work with American Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians; request from cindy.cameron@ed.gov; PDF at www.studentaid.ed.gov/brightfuture
- Fact sheets explaining federal aid programs and procedures, inspiring students to go to postsecondary school, and providing fraud prevention advice—download at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/pubs

For information about ordering audio or Braille resources for the visually impaired, visit the "Answering Students' Questions" section of www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov.

Note: Students may read most of our publications at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/pubs or order single copies from www.edpubs.ed.gov or from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID.